

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BHOPAL GAS DISASTER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal gas disaster. On December 3, 1984, 27 tons of deadly gases spewed out of the Union Carbide plant, forming a cloud of poisonous gas over Bhopal, India. As a result, 8,000 people lost their lives. In total, the deadly effects of this disaster have left 20,000 dead and another 20,000 with chronic illness.

A 2003 study by the highly regarded Journal of the American Medical Association found that children born to parents affected by this disaster still suffer the effects of Union Carbide's poisonous gases. In fact, a Greenpeace report documented the presence of chloroform, lead, mercury, and a series of other chemicals in the breast milk of nursing women who live near the factory.

Just this past June, a report by the Bhopal Medical Appeal and the Sambhavna Trust Clinic found that the water in and around Bhopal still contains unsafe levels of carbon tetrachloride and other pollutants, solvents, nickel, and other heavy metals. Therefore, it is not surprising that populations in the areas around Bhopal have high rates of birth defects, rapidly rising cancer rates, neurological damage, and mental illness.

It is simply unbelievable that Union Carbide refused to acknowledge which chemicals and gases were leaked for fear of legal liability. This left doctors to treat patients with no knowledge of how to proceed or what treatment to use. Union Carbide's use of unsafe and untested technologies led to one of the worst chemical disasters in world history. Rather than acknowledge the devastation they created and fully pay for the damages, Union Carbide decided to walk away.

However, in 2001 Dow Chemical Company, based in the United States, purchased Union Carbide and acquired all of its assets and liabilities. To this day, Dow Chemical refuses to shoulder the liabilities and obligations that it took on when it purchased Union Carbide.

Dow should clean up the factory site, which continues to contaminate the local environment and should go beyond simply providing compensation to the victims. Dow should also fund the necessary medical care and research studies necessary to treat victims and offer them the chance to live fruitful lives not plagued by chemical affects.

I believe that the Indian Government has a role to play in ensuring that the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and those that continue to face its deadly effects receive dignified care. Despite an order from the Supreme Court of India that clean drinking water should be supplied immediately, more than 25,000 people in Bhopal are forced to consume water known to contain dangerous contaminants.

Last year, along with 15 of my colleagues I wrote to Prime Minister Singh to express support for the people of Bhopal and urged him to personally meet with survivor groups to address the long-standing demands for justice. We expressed our hope that the Indian Government would pursue Union Carbide and Dow Chemical for their civil and criminal liabilities in the country.

We argued the victims of the Bhopal tragedy were right and deserving in their request for a commission to execute social, economic, and medical rehabilitation, implement an environmental clean-up of the polluted land, and provide funding for clean drinking water.

Today, thousands remember the lives lost in Bhopal and protest the current inaction and lack of responsibility associated with the Bhopal disaster. I hope that my colleagues will join me remembering the lives that were needlessly lost because of Union Carbide's negligence and the devastating effects that continue to plague the people of Bhopal.

Although this may be the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, people are still dying from the horrible affects of the chemicals that Union Carbide's plant leaked. I remain dedicated to fighting for the rights of the survivors of the Bhopal disaster and ensuring that those in Bhopal today receive the assistance needed to live in a clean and healthy environment.

HONORING CORPORAL JAMESON CHAREST UPON HIS RETURN HOME FROM SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest joy that I rise today to join the more than 300 family and friends who have gathered to welcome home Corporal Jameson Charest of Wallingford, Connecticut. I have known Jameson's family for many years. His mother, Karen, served as a Congressional Aide in one of my Connecticut colleagues' District Office and I often had the opportunity to work with her. There are no words to describe how proud we all are of his outstanding service to our nation and, most importantly, to his fellow marines.

Jameson enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq, where he served a 7 month tour. During his tour, he earned both the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Ribbon, when the vehicle he was in was destroyed by an IED. Needless to say, when word spread of his injuries, we were all concerned for his health and safety. Fortunately, Jameson has recovered and is ready to return to service. Though home on leave for the next several weeks, Jameson will report to Okinawa on New Year's Day and, in May, will report to the Pentagon.

Jameson will be the first one to tell you he is not a hero—that he is simply a marine,

doing his job. However, in my mind, Jameson, and all of the men and women who volunteer to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces are heroes. Dedicating themselves to protecting the freedoms and values we all cherish, they often give up much of themselves—and that is particularly true for those who have served in combat. Corporal Jameson Charest is a very special young man who certainly deserves our respect, our gratitude, and our admiration. He is a source of inspiration to all of those fortunate enough to know him.

For now, Corporal Jameson Charest has come home and it is certainly cause for celebration. I am so proud to stand today and join his parents, Karen and Denis, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening to welcome our hero home and to wish him all the best as he continues his service as a United States marine.

HONORING JAMES HARDEN "PAT" DAUGHERTY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable American. Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty, a longtime resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II when he was 19 years old. He was assigned to the U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, which was the only division-strength unit comprised of African Americans to fight in the European Theater. The division fought German and Italian troops in northern Italy, suffering thousands of injuries and deaths. Mr. Daugherty watched some of his best friends die right before his eyes. He was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement and the Combat Infantryman Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action.

The Buffalo Soldiers were great American heroes who waged a fight for freedom abroad even as they were denied freedom at home. After the war, they returned home to face racism, segregation, job discrimination and wide-ranging injustices. At age 23, upon returning from war, Mr. Daugherty felt compelled to document his wartime experiences as an African American. Earlier this year, coinciding with the 65th anniversary of D-day and the election of the first African American President, Mr. Daugherty published his firsthand account as a Buffalo Soldier in his memoir, *Buffalo Saga*.

Following the war, Mr. Daugherty resumed his studies with the aid of the GI Bill and received his bachelor of science from Howard University and his master of public health from Columbia University.

Mr. Daugherty was an educator in the District of Columbia public schools, where he organized an after-school tutoring program and taught students in math and reading. In 1964,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he was the first African American to serve as Health Educator for the District of Columbia Health Department. He was the first African American to be elected to the Montgomery County, Maryland Board of Education and served for many years on the Board of Visitors for the Maryland School for the Deaf.

From 1966 to 1994, Mr. Daugherty worked for the U.S. Public Health Service in a variety of positions. He was committed to improving the Nation's health care, particularly the underserved—rural and urban poor and minorities, coal miners, migrant workers, and incarcerated individuals. For his dedicated and tireless efforts, he received numerous awards and recognition, including the U.S. Public Health Service's "Administrator's Award for Excellence." The Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association honored Mr. Daugherty for his "dogged determination and work with divergent groups in a leading role to establish many community health centers throughout Mississippi and the South in the 1960s and 1970s—a time when racial injustice was one of the main barriers that separated black Americans from adequate health care."

In 1975, Mr. Daugherty was one of five co-founders of "Blacks in Government" and served as the first chairman of the national organization. This organization was formed to address the needs of African Americans in public service with the goal of promoting excellence in public service, equity in all aspects of American life and opportunity for all Americans.

Montgomery County, Maryland, declared July 28, 2009, "James Harden Daugherty Buffalo Soldier Day." Mr. Daugherty also was recognized for his contributions by Maryland's Governor and was recently interviewed by Smithsonian Magazine and National Public Radio.

Mr. Daugherty is a man of courage and integrity who has been a role model through his inspirational life of service to our Nation, especially to the underserved and needy. Mr. Daugherty's desire to share his story in his memoir allows all of us to benefit from his experiences.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. James Harden "Pat" Daugherty for his life of achievement and service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following: in regards to my bill, H.R. 1854 to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to modify an environmental infrastructure project for Big Bear Lake, California.

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Big Bear Department of Water and Power

Address of Requesting Entity: 41972 Garstin Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Description of Request: The city of Big Bear Lake delivers its potable water from 70 year old 2-inch diameter pipes that have led to declining water quality at the faucet, massive unaccounted for water loss, and most dangerously—low water pressure.

Because of this lack of water pressure the city does not have the capability to effectively fight a fire of size within city boundaries. Big Bear exists within the San Bernardino National Forest one of the most high risk zones for wildfire in the State of California. It has also led to rampant power consumption to move water through the system making Big Bear Lake the second highest rate payer in the region.

This bill will modify an existing authorization for Big Bear Department of Water and Power and reduce the previously authorized amount by \$3,000,000.

Amount: \$9,000,000

RECOGNIZING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TENNESSEE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 278TH AR- MORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, two days ago, thousands of Tennessee's finest men and women boarded buses and began the first leg of a long journey that will eventually lead them to the other side of the globe. Tennessee's largest National Guard unit, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, has received its orders and begun its deployment—first to Camp Shelby, MS, and then on to Iraq.

The 278th has proven itself to be an essential part of our Nation's Army. Without the citizen-soldiers that make up today's National Guard, our ability to defend ourselves and our allies would be severely diminished. A long deployment is very difficult, however, and for many of these soldiers this is not their first deployment. I hope these soldiers know how valuable, essential, and honored their service to our country is.

I specifically think today of Troop A, 278th Support Squadron, based in Lobelville, Tennessee. These fine men and women were appropriately honored by their community on December 4, and I know will fulfill the high expectations placed upon them by their commanders and perform admirably.

I ask my colleagues to lift up the 278th ACR in prayer, to honor the sacrifice their service represents, and support their families in every way possible.

IN HONOR OF LEE MATHEWS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Mr. Lee Mathews, the Director of Edison Job Corps Academy in Edison New Jersey, who passed away November 29, 2009 at the age of 57. Mr. Mathews served as an anti-drug advocate and spokesman for youth issues in his position as Director of Edison Job Corps Academy, and previously in his position as Director of the South Bronx Job Corps Center. Both institutions were nationally recognized, and Mr. Mathews had himself been recognized with the

National Award for being involved with the most innovative Job Corps Program in his last 3 years with Edison Job Corps.

When ResCare took control of the Edison Job Corps Center in November 1995, the center was rated 100 out of 109 and had an exceedingly poor image in the community. Mr. Mathews was able to improve the performance of the center to over 110 percent of the Department of Labor standard. Under the helm of Mr. Mathews, the program rose to prominence, ranking 21st out of 123 in the country.

By establishing relationships with companies like Aamco Transmission, Roto Rooter, and AT&T, Mr. Mathews revolutionized Edison Job Corps Academy's vocational training and made it into a model program that Job Corps programs nationwide are seeking to imitate and follow.

While the death of Mr. Mathews comes as a great loss to Job Corps, it comes as a greater loss to the State of New Jersey. His efforts and advocacy for youth issues will be greatly missed, though his legacy will live on through his accomplishments and work.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Lee Mathews, as our State remembers his determination and excellent service.

HONORING RONALD McDONALD CHARITIES OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley upon 25 years of service. The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Third Annual Red Heart Ball held in Fresno, California.

Ronald McDonald Charities of the Central Valley operates the Central Valley Ronald McDonald House that is affiliated with Children's Hospital Central California. The current house was built in 2001 and is adjacent to Children's Hospital. The 3-winged home has 18 bedrooms with multiple recreation and relaxation rooms. The house provides services for the families of the patients at Children's Hospital. These services include home cooked meals, private bedrooms and bathrooms, playrooms for children, recreational activities, toiletries and laundry materials, emotional support and clothing when necessary. It has been found that being just steps away from their sick child, along with the services offered, reduces a tremendous amount of stress for families and the patients. Further, children who are near their families while ill are more likely to heal faster.

Currently, the Ronald McDonald House runs at 99 percent occupancy. In recent years, hundreds of families have been turned away. With fundraisers, amazing support from the community and a recent 8-acre land donation adjacent to Children's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House is looking to create a larger home in the future to meet the increasing demands for the services that they provide.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Ronald McDonald Charities

of the Central Valley upon its 25th anniversary of service to the community and the families of patients at Children's Hospital Central California. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Ronald McDonald Charities many years of continued success.

HONORING GABRIEL AND LOUISE AMATO AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Gabriel and Louise Amato—quite a milestone for this wonderful couple. Gabe and Louise are more than just my dear friends—they are family—and I am so happy to have this opportunity to congratulate them on this golden anniversary.

Gabe and Louise met as teenagers—Gabe was 17 and Louise was 14—at a Catholic Youth Organization. It wasismet and the two soon became inseparable. They later married on Halloween in 1959. Louise was an educator for more than 25 years and Gabe, after serving in the United States Army for 2 years, worked for the APA Transport Company for nearly 30 years. Together they raised three beautiful children, Laurie, Cheryl, and Marc.

Some of my fondest memories include my cousin Gabe and his wife Louise—they are both so energetic, vibrant, and full of life. Gabe continues to be an active athlete playing basketball and bowling every week. He once won the golden ring for bowling a 300 game and just last week came close to repeating that feat when he bowled a 299. And, though she retired a few years ago, Louise is still engaged in the community.

Anyone who knows them can tell you that Gabe and Louise are a special couple. They are fierce friends—never far from those who need a helping hand. I cannot think of a time when I could not turn to them when I was in need and I have no doubt that you would hear similar stories from all of those fortunate enough to have benefitted from their friendship over the years.

Today, as Gabe and Louise celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and reflect on the life they built for themselves, they can be proud of the many ways in which they have touched the lives of others. Parent, friend, mentor, and, most importantly, spouse, Gabe and Louise have supported each other and all of those around them with a generosity, kindness, and compassion that is impossible to describe—it can only be felt.

It is with the warmest of hearts that I rise today to join their children, Laurie, Cheryl and Marc; their eight grandchildren, Christopher, Lindsey, Justin, Sydney, Erica, Sera, Marc, and Katie; as well as the multitude of family and friends who have gathered today to wish them a very happy 50th wedding anniversary and all the best for many more years of love and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO A CALIFORNIA WATER ICON: THOMAS J. GRAFF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas J. Graff, who passed away on November 12, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. Tom will be remembered as the dynamic force that helped shape the way that the State of California and the Federal Government manage water and protect the environmental resources of the State. Tom worked for and founded the California office of the Environmental Defense Fund in Oakland. His water achievements were based on an ability to work effectively with water users, legislators, conservationists, economists, and the public. He was known for his insightful thinking, writing and ability to translate complex water issues into understandable dialogue that legislators and the public could understand.

The water and environmental communities have lost a valuable champion, a true leader and a good friend. In a world today where hard feelings and rhetoric seem to capture the headlines, Tom worked to find the common ground and opportunities for sound water management. Tom's shoes will never be filled, but we can set a path to continue to follow his philosophy of finding solutions for our complex water issues.

"Along with much of California, I have been informed and inspired by Tom Graff since the mid-1970s," said Tim Brick, chairman of the board of directors for Metropolitan Water District, Los Angeles, California. "Tom truly recognized the value of water and fought to ensure that the environment gets its rightful share. Long before others, he was a beacon in promoting conservation, water transfers and environmental protections as solutions for California's great water systems, the Colorado River, the Central Valley Project, and the State Water Project. The development of policies and programs to ensure a sustainable Bay-Delta will be his greatest legacy."

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Graff, and I wish to express my sincere sympathy to his family as well as the extended family who have endured the loss of their loved one. I ask that all Members join me to honor this icon for his life's work.

INTRODUCTION OF PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD ACT OF 2009

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will expedite the adoption of electronic medical records throughout the health care sector nationwide. Creating an interoperable information technology network for health care will decrease health care costs and increases patient safety. While the implementation of electronic medical records were an internal feature of this act, another new and innovative technology, the personal health

record (PHR), has emerged to further strengthen the health care system by engaging individuals directly in their health care experiences. Active consumer engagement promises better patient health outcomes, reduction in health care costs, and greater patient safety. For these reasons, I am proud to introduce the Personal Health Records Act of 2009 today with my colleague Representative DAVID REICHERT.

We are all concerned with rising health care costs. Portable, Internet-based PHRs can be a critical piece of the process of improving the quality and efficiency of the health care system in this country. With PHRs, patients can both electronically import and export pertinent medical information to their health care providers. As a patient travels between multiple health care facilities, the patient's complete medical record can be easily accessed at the nearest computer, thus decreasing health care cost through limiting the number of repeated laboratory and diagnostic tests.

PHRs also engage patients in their medical care decisions by allowing them to personalize their medical history, medication lists, and allergies from a click of their mouse at their home. Patients can avoid repeatedly having to fill out the proverbial office room clipboard repeatedly. Additionally, PHRs can give patients a vehicle for personalized communication with their providers, thus allowing them to receive reminders, as an example, for preventive care, or receive information about medications they have been prescribed.

In order to maximize the potential of PHRs, the Personal Health Records Act of 2009 would define the critical components to be included in PHRs, including past medical and surgical history, medications, and allergies. The legislation also requires the Office of the National Coordinator to develop guidelines regarding the technological standards for interoperability between PHRs and electronic health records, and makes recommendations for the incorporation of PHRs into community and behavioral health programs. As health care provider adoption of PHRs is paramount to their success, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act would be available for providers that demonstrate meaningful use of electronic medical records through the interoperability of electronic medical records with PHRs.

Since PHRs will change the landscape of how confidential, health care information is obtained across the nation, issues of privacy, security, and patient safety are incorporated into PHR development from the onset. While the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 addresses many of these issues, the Personal Health Record Act further evaluates issues pertaining to PHR privacy, utilization, and patient safety.

The Personal Health Record Act aims to empower individuals to have a greater involvement in their medical care decisions. This engagement will lead to better health outcomes, not only by giving health care providers a more complete picture of a patient's medical history, but also by providing a tool through which the consumer can actively engage in their health care.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF SLAIN WASH- INGTON OFFICERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep sorrow and most sincere condolences to the families of Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, and Officer Greg Richards. These four officers, who so honorably served the Lakewood, Washington, Police Department, were tragically gunned down as they began their shifts last Sunday morning.

I, like all Americans, was shocked and horrified to hear of this brutal crime against four uniformed officers. Having grown up around law enforcement as a young police cadet, I know firsthand the challenges and dangers of the job, and the selflessness of those who wear the uniform and dedicate their lives to protecting their communities.

I come to the floor today to add my voice to all those expressing their grief and their outrage over these senseless killings, and I want to send my thoughts and prayers to the officers' families, especially the children these public servants have left behind. They will need untold strength in the coming days, but I know they will find all they need and more in the memory and example that their courageous parents have left for them.

Let us remember always the service of not only these four officers, but of all those who wear the uniform and make our safety their first priority.

PERMANENT ESTATE TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES, FARMERS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, nearly all American families do not qualify for the Federal estate tax. In fact, under the law as currently written in 2009, 99.75 percent of estates are exempt.

The Federal estate tax has been amended many times through the years—most recently in 2001 as part of the Republicans' omnibus tax cut legislation. That measure gradually increased estate tax exemptions and lowered estate tax rates between 2001 and 2009.

In 2002, people with estates valued less than \$1 million (\$2 million for joint filers) after deductions for expenses, debts, and bequests to a surviving spouse or charity were exempt from paying the Federal estate tax. Those with estates above that value were taxed at a rate of 55 percent.

In 2009, people with estates valued less than \$3.5 million (\$7 million for joint filers) after deductions for expenses, debts, and bequests to a surviving spouse or charity are exempt from paying the Federal estate tax. Those with estates above that value are taxed at a rate of 45 percent.

The 2001 tax law phases out the federal estate tax in 2010 but then reinstates the tax in 2011 at the level it was in 2002—\$1 million for single filers and \$2 million for those filing a joint return. This fluctuation in estate tax rates has caused a great deal of confusion for business owners and farmers who are participating in estate planning. In order to provide more certainty to those individuals, the Congress has been working to set a permanent estate tax rate that would exempt nearly all but the very wealthiest Americans.

Through the years, I have voted to eliminate the estate tax or to maintain suitably high exemptions to better shield farmers and small business owners from the burdens of the tax. This year, I cosponsored H.R. 3905, bipartisan legislation written by Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY (D-NV) that would permanently exempt estates valued at less than \$5 million for single filers and \$10 million for joint filers and set the tax rate on estates valued above that amount at 45 percent on a decreasing scale to 35 percent over the next ten years.

I have also cosponsored H.R. 3524, the Family Farm Preservation and Conservation Estate Tax Act, which was introduced by Congressman MIKE THOMPSON. This legislation would add a provision to the federal tax code allowing farmers and ranchers to defer payment of the Federal estate tax as long as the land is owned within the family and remains in agricultural production. H.R. 3524 would also defer the tax for land placed into a conservation easement. The measure would represent a win for farmers, for conservation and hunters, and for all of rural America. That is why it is supported by groups like the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Pork Producers Council, the Dairy Farmers of America, and the Agricultural Retailers Association.

While I would have preferred the House of Representatives to consider one of these well-written bills, the House of Representatives has considered a different measure, H.R. 4154, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009, which would permanently extend the estate tax levels at the current, 2009 rates.

It is very important for families, farmers, and businesses to have greater certainty with respect to estate planning. Groups representing a good number of Missourians expressed to me their views on this issue. The Dairy Farmers of America, which represents nearly 18,000 dairy producers in America, urged Congress to "take action now on this important measure" and to "support H.R. 4154." The American Farm Bureau Federation, while neutral on the bill, indicated the "need for certainty in estate tax law and the importance of maintaining the stepped-up basis." And, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations, wrote that Congress should "expeditiously approve a permanent estate tax solution to provide certainty for family-owned businesses and farms." The Chamber further indicated that "H.R. 4154, the 'Permanent Estate Tax Relief for Families, Farmers, and Small Businesses Act of 2009,' is a step towards this goal."

As a rural Missouri Congressman, I understand that farms and small businesses are dis-

proportionately impacted by the Federal estate tax. That is why I supported H.R. 4154. Under the 2009 estate tax guidelines, nearly all small businesses and farms are exempt from paying the tax. Only a small fraction of all estates in America—9,600—are expected to owe Federal estate taxes in 2009. For farmers, USDA data indicate that, after deductions, approximately 554 farm estates throughout our Nation would be considered taxable.

We should strive to reduce the number of farms and small businesses that are subject to the Federal estate tax. As I have mentioned, I have cosponsored legislation to do just that. And, to make clear my view that we should strive for higher tax exemptions, I was one of only 21 Democrats to vote with Republicans against the Rule to consider H.R. 4154 in the House of Representatives and was one of only 18 Democrats to vote with Republicans to send H.R. 4154 back to the Ways and Means Committee so that it could be improved.

At the end of the day, though, both of those procedural votes failed and we were left with two choices—either pass a bill to give farmers and small business owners more certainty or sit back and do nothing, which would allow the rates to become more painful to farmers and small business owners over the next 2 years. To me, that choice was easy. H.R. 4154 is a step in the right direction and I look forward to working with the Senate on this important legislation.

HONORING DIRECTOR ROBERT PARKER

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true leader and a dedicated public servant, Miami-Dade Police Department Director Robert Parker.

After honorably serving his country in the Army, Robert Parker continued his service by joining the Miami-Dade Police Department in 1976. With his hard work and dedication to the police department and to the residents of south Florida, he was able to earn his way through the ranks, eventually being appointed as the director in 2004.

As director, Robert Parker was in charge of the eighth largest police department in the country with more than 4,700 sworn and non-sworn personnel serving almost 2.5 million residents and visitors.

Director Parker's retirement culminates a long and illustrious career serving and protecting the residents of Miami-Dade County. The Mortgage Fraud Task Force initiated by Director Parker's department has become a national model of success in targeting mortgage fraud crimes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking Director Robert Parker for his dedicated service to the great people of south Florida and wish him and his family well in his retirement.

INTRADO 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Longmont, Colorado, based Intrado on the occasion of the celebration of their 30-year anniversary.

Founded by two Boulder County sheriffs, George Heinrichs and Stephen Meer, Intrado has played a key role in helping to define, build, and maintain the country's complex emergency communications system. Today Intrado provides the core of the Nation's 9-1-1 infrastructure, supporting over 200 million calls to 9-1-1 each year.

Intrado's history of emergency communications excellence is based on a strong foundation consisting of unmatched knowledge of emergency communications and public safety operations; proven experience in the design, deployment and operations of highly accurate, high-volume communication systems; solid reputation as a trusted and neutral custodian of sensitive data and; passion for saving lives.

Their extensive involvement in all aspects of the current 9-1-1 network has given them a unique perspective on how the system must evolve to support new technology, new system requirements and citizens' growing expectations. Intrado's customers include public safety agencies and the majority of the fixed wireline carriers, wireless carriers and VoIP service providers in the United States. Additionally, the nation's 6,000+ public safety answering points, PSAPs, rely on Intrado services for efficient 9-1-1 voice and data delivery. With the largest dedicated 9-1-1 call delivery network in the nation, Intrado can provide a broad range of customized and scaleable solutions.

9-1-1 is fundamental to telecommunications service. To meet this market requirement, Intrado helps telecommunications service providers ensure their subscribers' 9-1-1 calls are delivered to the correct public safety answering point (PSAP) over the dedicated 9-1-1 network along with the caller's accurate location information and call back number. As communications networks converge and 9-1-1 callers become more mobile Intrado has a proven track record of both anticipating and pioneering the solutions needed to keep pace with subscribers' demands for ubiquitous access to 9-1-1.

Intrado's contributions to the evolution of the 9-1-1 infrastructure include numerous technological and operational improvements as well as being responsible for more 9-1-1 technology "firsts" than any other commercial entity in the country.

Operates the largest dedicated 9-1-1 delivery network, with the highest data integrity level in the country;

Responsible for the ultimate delivery of over 90 percent of all 9-1-1 calls in the country;

Connected directly or indirectly to more than 6,000 public safety answering points in the country;

Supports over 200 million calls to 9-1-1 annually;

Maintains over 350 million records under management; average of three records per U.S. household;

Over 240 million wireline telephone records;

Over 120 million wireless records;

Over 1 million VoIP subscriber records;
Provides 9-1-1 services to more than 28 million members of the deaf community;
Processed an estimated 3 billion 9-1-1 calls to date;

Processed more satellite calls to 9-1-1 than any other service provider;

Processes an average of 500,000 updates to the 9-1-1 system daily;

Employees have more than 1,200 years of combined experience in public safety and telecommunications;

Holds licenses for over 45 U.S. and foreign patents, with over 100 pending.

Intrado's success has come in large part to its leadership, dedication and perseverance helping the public safety community. I want to thank them for all they have done to contribute to Colorado's economy and to the advancement of 9-1-1 and congratulations on this momentous occasion.

THE TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, for 100 years, scientists at the Research and Extension Center in Beaumont, Texas, have worked to provide economic security to agricultural producers in southeast Texas. The center was created by the Texas legislature in 1909, and was charged with developing rice production and management programs for the Texas upper gulf coast. Today the center occupies ca. 960 acres near Beaumont, 113 acres in Eagle Lake, and 18 acres near Ganado, and is 1 of 13 research and extension centers affiliated with the Texas A&M University System and Texas AgriLife Research, the State's premier research agency in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences.

The Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Beaumont is the preeminent center in developing high quality, high yielding rice varieties, economically competitive and environmentally sustainable rice production and management systems, rice water conservation programs, cellulosic bioenergy crop production systems, and cutting-edge internet-based crop, pest, and environmental resource management decision programs and databases, providing economic well being to thousands of families in southeast Texas.

The center scientists work extremely closely with Texas rice producers and rice producers across the U.S., and maintain research programs with scientists from across Texas and from California, Louisiana, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, and Mississippi. Current international research partners include scientists from Australia, Brazil, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Philippines, South Korea, and Sri Lanka, which has lead to the development of economically competitive and environmentally sound management systems that benefit Texas, the U.S., and the world.

The Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Beaumont is a showcase of agricultural and environmental research in the Upper Gulf Coast and looks forward to serving the needs of Texas, the Nation, and the world into the next century.

HONORING THE MARCHEGIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Marchegian Society of New Haven as they celebrate their centennial anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization.

Founded in 1909 by 36 men who had come to the United States from the Marche Province of Italy, the Marchegian Society was born out of a sense of responsibility to their fellow Marchigiani. They wanted to provide financial assistance for their fellow members in the event of illness, death, or accidents—not an uncommon occurrence at the turn of the century. Though the majority of the Marchigiani came from agrarian backgrounds, they were skilled artisans who were family oriented, industrious and proud of their work ethic. While they quickly assimilated into American society, the Marchegian Society provided them with a way to celebrate their shared ancestry, culture, and traditions.

The original members of the Marchegian Society met in a building at the lower end of Minor Street in the Hill section of New Haven, Connecticut. In 1923, the society purchased its present home on Cedar and Minor Streets. The acquisition allowed the organization to expand in size and led to the formation of the Marchegian Club for the purposes of social endeavors. In 1924, a group of 132 women founded the Societa Femminile Marchegiana which functioned under its own bylaws until a fusion pact was passed in 1936 giving the Marchegian Ladies Society an equal partnership with the men—an act of equal rights for women well before the concept became a national issue.

The construction of the present building was completed in 1936 and the new facility provided an outstanding space which soon became the social and cultural center of the community. Minstrels, musical shows, bowling contests, card games, bocce tournaments and weekly dances were among the many activities and charity events held there. The society remained a very progressive organization and continued to care for its members, providing sick and death benefits as well as cemetery plots for those members who could not afford one. The Marchegian Society provided a social and financial safety net for their members and, when the nation called on communities to sell war bonds during World War II, the society held numerous rallies to support the cause. The pride that they have shared, from generation to generation, in their community, their work, and their nation—that sense of family—is what has made this organization so special and what has enabled it to continue its mission for 100. The Marchegian Society is a community treasure.

Today, as members gather to celebrate, I am honored to have this opportunity to stand and extend my sincere congratulations to the Marchegian Society on their 100th anniversary. I have no doubt that the Marchegian Society will continue to be a source of pride for

our community and continue in their mission to preserve, protect, and celebrate the strong and special traditions of Le Marche.

HONORING THE GUILDS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guilds of Children's Hospital Central California upon 60 years of community service, philanthropy, and advocacy for the hospital. The Guilds will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Thursday, November 12, 2009, in Fresno, California.

In 1949 five women, Agnes Crockett, Gail Goodwin, Helen Maupin Ross, Carolyn Peck and Patty Randall, recognized a common need for a dedicated pediatric hospital in California's San Joaquin Valley. As the five women moved forward with their vision, they realized this would need to be a community project, and the idea of a "guild" system emerged. Since then, the Guilds have had two primary objectives; to raise financial support and to develop ongoing community support for Children's Hospital Central California.

On January 28, 1949, the first public meeting was held to discuss a "hospital for children only." By September the first Guild, Llanada Guild, was established and the initial fundraiser for Valley Children's Hospital was held. With Mrs. T. Wayne Simpson as President, Llanada Guild raised \$5,477 at a fundraiser held at Giffen Ranch. In just 2 years, the Guild had raised well over \$3,000.

On September 12, 1951, a ground breaking ceremony for the hospital was held. It was through the fundraising efforts of the original Guilds that Valley Children's Hospital was constructed in Fresno, California on donated land. Fourteen months after the ground breaking ceremony, Valley Children's Hospital was open for patients. The first patient, a young girl with a stomach ache was admitted on November 12, 1952, and the first surgery performed at the hospital was an appendectomy on the young girl.

During the early 1990s Valley Children's Hospital started the plans for a new, state-of-the-art facility. After settling on a 50-acre site in Madera County, just north of the Madera-Fresno County line, planning and construction of the new facility took almost a decade. For almost 50 years, Valley Children's Hospital provided medical and emergency services to children through out the San Joaquin Valley at the same facility. On August 31, 1998, at 1 minute past midnight, the move to the new fa-

cility began and the new hospital was renamed Children's Hospital Central California.

Today, Children's Hospital has a service area that covers 10 counties in central California. The hospital treats more inpatient cases than any other pediatric hospital north of San Diego, making this hospital the second largest children's hospital in the State of California. It is a 338 bed facility, and is 1 of the 10 largest hospitals of its type in the Nation. The hospital performs over 9,000 surgeries annually. The Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units have some of the lowest mortality rates in the nation, while treating some of the sickest children. The Craycroft Cancer Center at Children's Hospital is a full member of the nationally recognized Children's Oncology Group, and sees more than 100 new cases every year. The Wilson Heart Center has pioneered cardiac care for half a century, and performed one of the first open-heart surgeries in the area. It is also the first pediatric hospital west of the Rocky Mountains to be awarded Magnet Nursing status and received re-designation in 2008.

With the vision and ingenuity of the first five women, the Guilds have helped to make Children's Hospital what it is today. For the past 60 years the Guilds have been the largest financial contributor to the hospital, raising almost \$22 million. The hospital has used these funds to expand both services and the hospital. In June 2009, the Guilds voted to support the largest single donation to the hospital, a \$4 million commitment for the continuation of the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment. In 60 years funds have been raised through the fundraising efforts of all of the Guilds; Llanada (established 1949, disbanded), Kings (established 1949), La Feliz (established 1949), Los Rancheros (established 1949), Pleasant Valley (established 1949, disbanded), Alegria (established 1950), Corcoran (established 1950, disbanded), Las Madrinan (established 1950), Panoche (established 1950, disbanded), Rio Reyes (established 1950, disbanded), Sequoia (established 1950), Tenaya (established 1950), La Caridad (established 1951, disbanded), La Tienda (established 1952), Holiday (established 1953), La Comida (established 1953), Children's Service (established 1950s, disbanded), Los Ninos (established 1950s, disbanded), Selma (established 1950s, disbanded), Las Amigas (established 1950s, disbanded), La Sierra (established 1999), La Visionaria (established 2007), Del Corazon (established 2008) and Los Ninos Hispanic (established 2008).

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Guilds of Children's Hospital Central California on 60 years of giving. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Guilds many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE ANCIENT
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION
4 ANNUAL IRISH FAMINE MASS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ancient Order of Hibernians A.O.H., Division 4 and their Great Irish Hunger Annual Mass and Memorial Dedication. On Saturday, November 14, the A.O.H. will hold a mass and immediately following take part in a processional walk to Friendship Park in Keansburg, New Jersey, for the dedication and blessing of "The Great Irish Hunger Monument." The monument was designed by artist Phil Sloan and A.O.H. Division 2 President Jack Sullivan.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was founded in 1836 in New York City and is a nonprofit Catholic fraternal organization whose mission is to promote friendship, unity, and Christian charity among its members. The original order existed in Ireland for over 300 years and was created to help protect the lives of Catholic priests in occupied Ireland after the reign of England's King Henry VIII.

American chapters of the Ancient Order of Hibernians were created for similar reasons like protecting the clergy and the Catholic Church and its followers while providing aid to the community at large. The A.O.H. admirably seeks to promote and preserve the Irish Heritage through art, music, dance, and culture. The services that they provide are important assets to my district and provide unique diversity that is dearly valued.

The Great Famine or Great Hunger created widespread starvation and disease which, coupled with a mass exodus from Ireland, caused the country's population to drop by more than 20 percent. It is estimated that approximately 1 million people died and 1 million more left Ireland during that period. The A.O.H. will honor and remember those devastated by the famine with a memorial mass, as well as bless their newly erected monument which will stand as a memorial to the lives lost and forever changed by the Great Hunger.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the work they do in supporting my constituency, as well as honor the memory of those affected by the Great Hunger that struck Ireland over 150 years ago.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
DECEMBER 9

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1690, to amend the Act of March 1, 1933, to transfer certain authority and resources to the Utah Dineh Corporation; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine Department of the Interior backlogs.

SD-628

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert A. Petzel, of Minnesota, to be Under Secretary for Health, and Raul Perea-Henze, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the new Afghanistan strategy, focusing on the view from the ground.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Jacqueline A. Berrien, of New York, Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, Chai Rachel Feldblum, of Maryland, all to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Patrick Alfred Corvington, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Adele Logan Alexander, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, and Lynnae M. Rutledge, of Washington, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine five years after the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, focusing on stopping terrorist travel.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Economic Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine creating jobs in the recession.

SD-538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine mortgage fraud, securities fraud, and the financial meltdown, focusing on prosecuting those responsible.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine research parks and job creation, focusing on innovation through cooperation.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

European Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine strengthening the transatlantic economy.

SD-419

Finance

International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine exports' place on the path of economic recovery.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the diplomat's shield, focusing on diplomatic security today.

SD-342

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider S. 373, to amend title 18, United States Code, to include constrictor snakes of the species Python genera as an injurious animal, S. 1214, to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, S. 1421, to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation and shipment of certain species of carp, S. 1519, to provide for the eradication and control of nutria in Maryland, Louisiana, and other coastal States, S. 1965, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the State of Louisiana for a pilot program to develop measures to eradicate or control feral swine and to assess and restore wetlands damaged by feral swine, H.R. 509, to reauthorize the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004, H.R. 2188, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, H.R. 3433, to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act, H.R. 3537, to amend and reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp

Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994, S. 1397, to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants for electronic device recycling research, development, and demonstration projects, S. 1660, to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, a proposed resolution relating to Army Corps study for Espanola Valley, and a proposed resolution relating to the General Services Administration.

SD-406

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal role in overseeing the safety of public transportation systems.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine aviation safety, focusing on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety initiatives.

SR-253

Budget

To hold hearings to examine data-driven performance, focusing on using technology to deliver results.

SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the role of grid-scale energy storage in meeting our energy and climate goals.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Washington and London on June 21 and 26, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-07), and Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Sydney, September 5, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110-10).

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Grayling Grant Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, and Elizabeth M. Harman, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 448, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 714, to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission, S. 1624, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, to provide protection for medical debt homeowners, to restore bankruptcy protections for individuals experiencing economic distress as caregivers to ill, injured, or disabled family members, and to exempt from means testing debtors whose financial problems were caused by serious medical problems, S. 1765, to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to include crimes against the homeless,

S. 678, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, S. 1554, to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to prevent later delinquency and improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the development of local Court Teams for Maltreated Infants and Toddlers and the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center to assist such Court Teams, S. 1789, to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing, and the nominations of Rosanna Malouf Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, William M. Conley, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, Denny Chin, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Paul R. Verkuil, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and John Gibbons, to be United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts, Richard G. Callahan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and John Leroy Kammerzell, to be United States Marshal for the District of Colorado, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the challenge of creating jobs in the aftermath of the recession.

210, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine children and disasters, focusing on a progress report on addressing needs.

SD-342

Foreign Relations

East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine principles for United States engagement in Asia.

SD-419

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.

S-407, Capitol

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2052, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to nuclear reactors, and S. 2812, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs to develop and demonstrate 2 small modular nuclear reactor designs.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SR-253

DECEMBER 17

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine an overview of Afghanistan contracts.

SD-342

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1470, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 1719, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, S. 1787, to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, H.R. 762, to validate final patent number 27-2005-0081, and H.R. 934, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

SD-366